

Stone's Revision of the Genus *Anous*.¹—Mr. Stone recognizes seven species of the genus *Anous*, one of which, *A. atrofuscus*, is described as new, and he has apparently done good service in straightening out the complicated synonymy of the group. A synoptic table is given of the species.—J. A. A.

Stone on the Old World Rallinæ.²—Says Mr. Stone: "Having had occasion to make a thorough investigation of the literature bearing upon the Old World Rails, I think it desirable to prepare the following list of the described species and genera which brings together in one paper all the references to published descriptions. Lack of sufficient material has prevented me from making a monographic study of the group, but where specimens were at hand I have been able to judge of the specific relations of various described forms and to arrange the synonymy accordingly." Mr. Stone's paper was prepared independently of Dr. Sharpe's recent work on the group, as finally set forth in Vol. XXIII of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' which appeared almost coincidentally with Mr. Stone's paper. Mr. Stone, however, refers to Sharpe's paper on the Rallidæ published in 'The Ibis' in 1893. It is therefore of interest to compare the views of the two authors. The number of genera recognized for this group by Mr. Stone is 23, with 3 additional subgenera; by Mr. Sharpe, 33. Mr. Stone formally recognizes 88 species; Mr. Sharpe, 88,—a remarkable agreement in respect to the number of species admitted. The order of arrangement of the genera is very different in the two publications.

Mr. Stone gives a chronological list of the "generic names which have been proposed for the Old World Rails"—38 in all—from 1758 to 1893, excluding, however, a number proposed by Heine in 1890. In commenting on these names, he states that *Ortygometra* Leach is simply a synonym of *Crex*, though wrongly used in another connection. He disapproves of Mr. Sharpe's recognition of so many generic divisions of the old genus *Porzana*, and considers that while *Zapornia* and *Coturnicops* (= '*Ortygops*' of Sharpe) may stand as subgenera, *Phalaridion* and *Rallites* must be regarded as merely synonyms of *Porzana*. No new names, either generic or specific, appear to be proposed, but two generic names that have been in more or less common use are shown to be preoccupied, and later names are properly adopted in their stead; namely, *Sarothrura* Heine for *Corethrura* Reich.; *Euryzona* Bon. for *Rallina* Reich. nec Gray. The body of the paper consists of a synonymic list of the genera and species, with their habitats, and more or less technical comment on questions of nomenclature.—J. A. A.

¹ A Revision of the Genus *Anous*. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1894, pp. 115-118.

² A Review of the Old World Rallinæ. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1894, pp. 130-149.